

Appl. No. 10/757,188  
Amdt. dated 12/14/2005  
Reply to Office Action of 11/14/2005

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### **REMARKS**

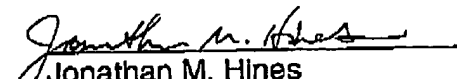
This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action of November 14, 2005. Election has been required between species shown in Figures 3 and 6, respectively.

Applicant provisionally elects species I, Figure 3, for further prosecution. Claims 1-6 and 13-21 read on the elected species.

The requirement for election between the species of Figures 3 and 6 is traversed. Applicant believes that it would not be a serious burden to search these species together, and that prosecution would be expedited by searching them together. These species share the common element that an air channel is formed in one of two mating components (a flange and a honeycomb backing member) which collectively form the stationary portion of a rotating seal assembly. It is believed that the prior art relevant to either of these species would be found in the same field of search, and that the species would not have a separate classification, or a separate status in the art.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the election requirement is requested. An action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jonathan M. Hines  
Registration No. 44,764

Jonathan M. Hines  
ADAMS EVANS P.A.  
2180 Two Wachovia Center  
Charlotte, North Carolina 28282  
Tel. 704-375-9249  
Fax: 704-375-0729  
e-mail: jmh@adamspat.com  
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